

as yet, and it is only when he comes up to the Induction Board that he becomes a part of the Army.

Here in San Francisco, after having the problem completely balled up by the Governor and the Adjutant-General's office, who are not following the plans of the American Medical Association Committee on Medical Defense, the County Medical Society here took things in hand and got it fairly well straightened out so that the work is spread out over a great many of doctors without too much concentration on certain ones. However, the problem is still present, and as time goes on it should be worked out with more fairness to the medical profession.

With my kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD A. FLETCHER, M. D.

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(COPY)

Enclosure

HARRY WILEY, M. D.

HUNTINGTON PARK, CALIFORNIA

Postscript of a letter addressed to Russell Fletcher, M. D., and dated January 16, 1941.

P. S.—Note in this month's CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE where Harold, as chairman of a special committee of the San Francisco County Medical Society, called a meeting with Colonel Bert S. Thomas and staff of the California Adjutant-General's medical department, etc. One question I would like to put to Harold, to the county medical societies, to the Governor, the Government, and everybody concerned:

Why are they asking the medical profession to examine these draftees gratis? It is taking hours and hours of their time and I know many down here are doing it at a great sacrifice. Why wouldn't it be a simple solution to detail a man already in the service on salary to go from Board to Board and do this examining?

HARRY WILEY, M. D.

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Huntington Park, California,
January 27, 1941.

Harold A. Fletcher, M. D.
Medico-Dental Building
490 Post Street
San Francisco, California
My dear Harold:

Many thanks for your letter of the 21st. I feel that we are all in accord on this matter, but sort of working at cross-purposes. I like your suggestion that it should be taken up with the various county medical societies, and I wish I were big enough and influential enough to take it up not only with our own county medical societies, but with all the State Associations and the American Medical Association. To my way of thinking, it is one of the great injustices, regardless of all others, that we have had to suffer and that has ever been placed upon the medical profession.

I agree with you that the Defense Program is large and great, but I do not agree with you that it is hard to determine how it can best be accomplished. It will easily be accomplished if the entire American public, including capitalists, bankers, manufacturers, workers (including representatives of all unions), lawyers, dentists, medical profession, and *everybody* who constitutes America, give their utmost to putting across the Defense Program. However, in the present position, the medical men are expected to give something for nothing, which nobody else will. If everybody else connected with the Defense Program—which, after all, I think would be the ideal way—gave their time and service, then it would be just and right to expect the medical profession to do likewise. If the medical men are expected to do this, then why shouldn't the lawyers,

the dentists, the laborers, especially the high-up officials of the unions, give their time for nothing? Perhaps I am a trifle radical, but I still think my argument is just.

You bring up the point that the Army could not possibly supply medical men for this work, and I must disagree with you heartily. They could easily order enough reserve officers to do all this examining. You state that a draftee is not in the Army, and yet at behest of the Government he is ordered up to become a part of the Army. During times when an emergency does not exist, the Army maintains recruiting offices, consisting usually of a medical officer and a sergeant of the Medical Corps, and they stay at the recruiting office for months at a time on full pay with only an occasional applicant whom they examine. Why shouldn't they now be given full time and examine twelve or fifteen draftees a day? When I went into the service in No. 1 War, I did this very recruiting duty for the first three weeks, and, from my experience of that time, I know that it could easily be accomplished by medical army officers who are being paid for their services.

Hoping that we will be able to work this thing out, I am with very kindest regards,

Yours,

HARRY WILEY, M. D.

Concerning Hardships on Medical Reserve Officers: A Letter with Queries.

April 1, 1941.

To the Editor:—A condition which some of us feel warrants the attention of the California Medical Association and the American Medical Association has arisen as a result of the present emergency and the methods adopted by the Army and the Navy Departments.

From conversations with other Reserve officers and from outside reports, I think my own experience is perhaps typical of the situation. Many of us have belonged to the Reserve for several years, and when the question of remaining as such arose we were assured that we would not, and in fact could not, be called to active duty without consent except in time of war. As late as November, 1940, we were officially advised not to give up present civilian occupations, and emphasizing the fact that every consideration would be given in case of call so as to work no unnecessary hardship in adjusting affairs, also recommending that those wishing deferment submit letter stating their reasons. Yet less than ten days after receiving this memorandum, orders were issued to some of us, giving from four to fifteen days in which to report for active duty, in most cases, some distance from our homes.

The result has been that in most cases the doctors concerned were forced to simply close their offices and leave both patients and personal affairs in confusion. The fact that many of us were heavily obligated in the way of real estate, etc., made the situation increasingly bad. This method of procedure has in no way helped the morale of those concerned, many of whom feel it unnecessarily severe under present conditions of so-called peace.

The result of this inability to make adjustments will undoubtedly be that most of us will not only lose our hard-won practices, but possibly our investments in equipment and property. Under recent laws, those called for a year with the National Guard and Selective Service are assured of their jobs upon return to civil life, but these do not protect professional and business men required to leave their business.

As far as I can ascertain, medical officers have no assurance that, when the emergency is over, they will not be simply dropped at the discretion of the Army and the Navy officials as coldly as they were inducted, perhaps with as little warning, and probably in a period of depression. That this will work great hardships upon thousands of them now sacrificing their practices is no question.

It seems only just that pressure be brought to provide some protection, either in choice as to remaining in regular service, or in some form of cash allowance, to give a reserve while again locating in civil life. An equitable form of the latter would be half the annual base pay such as is now provided in case of death. The time to take this action is *now*, when the need for medical officers is acute. We, in early active duty, are now the victims of this situation, but if war comes many now actually profiting by our absence will be placed in the same category. Only by organized effort by our representative organizations can this be accomplished.

Fraternally,

(Signed) : _____

Concerning Meeting of the Western Branch, American Public Health Association.

San Francisco, March 13, 1941.

To the Editor:—May we ask you to call to the attention of your readers the twelfth annual meeting of the Western Branch, American Public Health Association, at Hotel San Diego, San Diego, May 26 to 29, 1941.

I am enclosing information on the various sessions for your use. For further information, please write to W. Ford Higby, 45 Second Street, San Francisco.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. F. HIGBY,
Secretary.

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The annual meeting of the Western Branch, American Public Health Association, will be held at Hotel San Diego, San Diego, from May 26 to May 29, 1941. Plans are being laid to build this meeting around the National Defense Program as it affects the public health worker. There will be sessions on Housing, Venereal Disease, Maternal and Child Hygiene, Industrial Hygiene, and Sanitary Engineering. All of these sessions will consider the problems from the national, state, and local viewpoint as well as from the military viewpoint, and also the health education and nursing aspects of these problems.

The session on Housing will be presided over by Dr. Bertram P. Brown, Director, California Department of Public Health.

It is hoped that Dr. Edith P. Sappington, Regional Medical Consultant, Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, will preside at the Maternal and Child Hygiene session.

Dr. K. F. Meyer, Director, Hooper Foundation of Medical Research, San Francisco, will lead the session on Communicable Diseases.

Frederick Carlyle Roberts, Jr., State Sanitary Engineer, Arizona State Board of Health, will lead the session on Industrial Hygiene and Sanitary Engineering.

Dr. William F. Snow, Chairman, Executive Committee, American Social Hygiene Association, will preside over the Venereal Disease Session.

Dr. Reginald M. Atwater, Executive Secretary, American Public Health Association, will lead an important discussion on the strengthening of our local health departments as a means of aiding in the National Defense Program.

The opening meeting will present as the speaker of the day, Dr. W. P. Shepard, President, Western Branch, American Public Health Association. On the same program, Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director, San Francisco Department of Public Health, will speak on the subject, "England's Wartime Experience in Public Health and What We in This Country Can Learn From It." Also, there will be an address by Dr. W. T. Harrison, Medical Director, Liaison Officer, United States Public Health Service, care

of Ninth Corps Area, on "The Public Health Program in Areas Adjacent to Military Centers."

James G. Stone, Executive Secretary, Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Association, who is the chairman of the Program Committee, assures us that this program will not lag for one moment from Monday morning until Thursday night, except for Wednesday afternoon, which will be left open for meetings of affiliated groups and for recreation.

Concerning Sulfathiazole-Winthrop.

(COPY)

WINTHROP CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC.
170 VARICK STREET—NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sulfathiazole-Winthrop

Important Notice

April 3, 1941.

To the Editor:—In the manufacture of tablets of Sulfathiazole-Winthrop, "M. P." control series (December, 1940), some of the tablets were accidentally contaminated with phenobarbital. Immediately upon discovery of this, active steps were taken by us to recover this *entire* series.

Our attempt to assure the return of all tablets of the "M. P." control series is being continued, in conjunction with the nation-wide effort of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration and other public agencies. In the interest of public safety, your prompt coöperation with us and with these public agencies in this search will be greatly appreciated, as these contaminated tablets may be dangerous.

Please examine the mark on every package of our Sulfathiazole tablets, and return to us immediately for exchange any package marked with the letters "M. P." If you have dispensed tablets from bottles bearing these control letters, will you kindly endeavor to recover all such tablets which have not been consumed.

Needless to say, this occurrence is a matter of profound regret to us. Nothing of this nature has ever happened before in our history, and we are taking extraordinary precautions to prevent a recurrence. For more than two decades we have served the medical and pharmaceutical professions. During that period we have earned a reputation for high standards and outstanding products which we shall strive faithfully to maintain.

WINTHROP CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC.

Concerning Reprints of Article, "Preventable Seasonal Suffering."

(COPY)

CUTTER LABORATORIES

Berkeley, California, March 3, 1941.

To the Editor:—We recently mailed an advertising letter on our pollen extracts to California physicians with which was enclosed a reprint of an article by Milton M. Hartman on "Preventable Seasonal Suffering," which appeared in the February, 1940, issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (on page 55).

Doctor Hartman, who had not seen the letter in question, phoned me shortly after its release, stating that it had caused him considerable embarrassment in that other physicians had assumed that he was connected with this laboratory in some way, or, at least, was using and recommending Cutter extracts. Such an assumption is entirely incorrect, as Doctor Hartman is in no way connected with this company and, I believe, is preparing his own extracts, so could hardly be recommending ours.

I would sincerely appreciate it if this letter could be published in an early issue of your JOURNAL.

Cordially yours,

CUTTER LABORATORIES.

F. A. Cutter.